



## Food Donation Guide

Thank you for considering a donation of food to Second Harvest! We are a perishable food rescue program that collects food from a variety of donors in the GTA and distributes that food in refrigerated trucks to approximately 250 social service programs. We are equipped to handle ad-hoc pick-ups usually within 24 hours or same day of your call, as well as regularly scheduled pick-ups for our frequent donors.

### **Pick-up Criteria**

To make the best use of our trucks:

- We will gladly accept food donations of 50 lbs or more, but a minimum of 100 lbs is preferred.
- Ideally, the food should be packaged and accessible for pick-up upon the driver's arrival.
- Pick-up locations should stay within the parameters of the GTA.

*Alternate arrangements may be made for donations that do not meet the above criteria.*

*Please call us to inquire.*

### **Food Criteria**

#### Acceptable Foods

- Fresh, frozen, prepared and raw foods including meat, produce, dairy, juice and fresh or frozen meals
- Non-perishable foods, canned and/or packaged
- Surplus, close to code, damaged, mislabelled and discontinued products
- Non-perishable food that is past code may be accepted if the donor verifies it for safe consumption

#### Unacceptable Foods

- Leftover food that has been 'plated' and served
- Prepared food with meat, egg or milk products that has been sitting at room temperature for over 2 hours
- Expired dairy, refrigerated meat, and baby food product
- Food or drinks with alcohol and/or medicinal ingredients
- Open packaged or broken sealed food

### **Pick-up Arrangements**

**Pick-ups are arranged simply by phoning our office at (416) 408-2594 and asking for Dispatch.** While our trucks are on the road seven days a week, we are only equipped to answer the phone during regular business hours: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

**Ad-hoc pick-ups:** Second Harvest can often pick up food on the same day you call in, or within 24 hours. The more notice you can give us about an impending pick-up, the better: calling in the morning of a same-day pick-up is preferable to the afternoon, and further advance notice, if possible, is much appreciated.

**Regularly scheduled pick-ups:** If you know that you will have a sufficient quantity of food to donate on a regular basis, it may be possible to arrange for a regularly scheduled pick-up. We can arrange daily, weekly or monthly pick-ups.

**Please note:** We cannot always guarantee a time for pick-up due to circumstances beyond our control such as unscheduled call-ins or traffic. In the event that we cannot make a pick-up, we will notify you to make alternate arrangements.

*For further inquiries or details, please call Dispatch at (416) 408-2594 or email [melissad@secondharvest.ca](mailto:melissad@secondharvest.ca)*